

Due to the tragic events in Flint involving its water system, experts from the Wyoming Water Treatment Plant are providing answers to many common questions that Wyoming customers might have about their local system. Those customers who would like additional information can call Jaime Fleming at 399-7846.

**How do I know our water is safe?**

The City of Wyoming conducts numerous types of tests and monitoring to ensure safe, high quality water. Some monitoring is continuous or hourly for operations oversight; other tests are done on a daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual basis.



**Does our water have high levels of lead in it like the City of Flint's?**

No, the water supplied to your home is lead-free. The most recent round of lead testing conducted at the representative residential sampling sites in Wyoming's water distribution area (2013) showed Wyoming's water system to be in compliance with the US EPA 15 parts per billion action level.

**Where does the lead that can be in drinking water come from?**

Every home is served by what is called a service line, which is the pipe that connects the water main in the street to the plumbing system in the house. The presence of lead in drinking water is primarily due to the lead service lines that were in common use historically, and, in some cases, interior plumbing and fixtures inside the house. In some neighborhoods in Wyoming, staff from the City are going door-to-door to confirm service line material makeup.

**How is lead testing conducted in Wyoming's water distribution system?**

The MDEQ mandates that testing for lead be conducted every three years in a representative number of Wyoming residences. Samples are drawn from residential taps in homes that are known to have been built during the era when lead-based solder was commonly used as a plumbing material. The EPA action level for lead is 15 parts per billion (ppb). If the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the residential samples is at or above 15 ppb, then the City would be required to make changes to its treatment scheme to prevent the corrosion of service lines or plumbing systems. No detectable amounts of lead have ever been found from these residential sampling events in Wyoming.

**I understand that some of the trouble in Flint happened in the water service lines between water mains and residences. In Wyoming, who is responsible for replacing those lead-based service lines?**

The City has no records of any lead-based service lines anywhere in its water distribution area. If the City knew of a lead-based service line, it would immediately replace that line at its cost.

**How many service lines are there overall? How many lead service lines are there in Wyoming?**

There are approximately 23,000 service lines in Wyoming overall. To the best of the City's knowledge, there are no lead-based service lines. However, because there are limited areas where the City cannot definitively rule out the presence of a lead-based service line based solely on the information it has, it is going door-to-door conducting visual inspections in some neighborhoods.

**If someone is concerned about their water, can they ask/pay to have their water tested?**

Before having any testing done, customers may want to consult with the Kent County Health Department to discuss their specific concerns. With lead in particular, there are other concerns such as lead-based paint, which may be found in older homes. Healthy Homes Coalition is another great resource. Homeowners should speak to one of these agencies first to better understand their concerns before getting water tests done. The following resources may be helpful.

Kent County Health Department, Environmental Health Services, (616) 632-6900,  
[https://www.accesskent.com/Health/health\\_department.htm](https://www.accesskent.com/Health/health_department.htm)

Healthy Homes Coalition of West Michigan, (616) 241-3300, <http://www.healthyhomescoalition.org/>

There are private drinking water laboratories in this area that property owners can contact to have their water tested for any specific parameters. The State of Michigan is also a resource:

MDEQ Drinking Water Analysis Laboratory, (517) 335-8184, [http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135-3307\\_4131\\_4155-10683--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135-3307_4131_4155-10683--,00.html)